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The English News Magazine of the Diocese of Taiwan



Bishop's Letter

Easter greetings to you all for 2012, praise the Lord, Christ is risen, Alleluia!

During this Easter season I ask each one of us to reflect on the meaning of the resurrection for ourselves. The resurrection challenges us to renew our lives, to change our attitudes and our life values. Just how should we proclaim the good news to our relatives, friends and neighbors so that one day they can join with us in proclaiming Alleluia, Christ is risen?!

From the Bible we know that we are made in God's image. God has given us reason, wisdom and knowledge, he has also given us the responsibility of taking care of his creation and for taking care of each other. God has blessed us mightily through the birth of his son, Jesus; through the redemption of our sin,

and through the resurrection of Jesus. It is truly amazing grace!

The disciples were sent out throughout the world, called to proclaim the resurrection of Jesus. We thank God for the faithful witness of all those called to be apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers who have devoted their lives as living sacrifices in the service of Christ. The result is that one third of the

world's population worships and serves the Lord Jesus and can join with us in proclaiming Alleluia this Easter season!



UDIOCESE OF TAIWAN ORDINATIONS: APRIL 27, 2012 REV. JOSEPH WU (LEFT), BISHOP LAI (CENTER) AND REV. CHENG CHEN-CHANG (RIGHT)

Each year in Taiwan the Easter Festival coincides with the Festival of Mazu, Goddess of the Sea. Thousands of devotees rush to the Mazu Temple near Taichung and are desperate to be able to get in line to lie down in the road so when Mazu goes on tour all around the area, the god will pass over them and give them

special blessing. Always they are seeking a blessing for themselves, never for others. This is all so different from Jesus' teaching. We receive blessing from God to share with others and we do not need to lie down in the road! We need only to believe and trust in God, and commit our lives to Him.

Even though all Jesus' disciples were men, it was the women who were the first to know of the resurrection, it was they who came early in the morning to the tomb wanting to embalm the body of Jesus. The Gospels of Mark and John both mention that the first witness to the resurrection was Mary Magdalene. Her life was changed forever when Jesus expelled seven demons from her, and she went on to devote herself to serve Jesus and the disciples. You and I have all had experience of God's blessing and mercy. In our prayers let us ask the Holy Spirit to help us in our daily lives to be more like Mary Magdalene in devotion to our Lord Jesus Christ and to our neighbor.

We know from the Gospels of the great fear of the disciples in the days after Jesus' death. Yet when

the women came to tell them the good news, they rushed immediately to the tomb, forgetting or laying aside their fear. Such action is a response of love to Jesus. They knew that the resurrection had conquered all fear, sin and death. When we believe, we too are forgiven and can have victory over Satan. We know the power of the change from EVIL> LIVE (read the word 'evil' backwards). All of us are searching for true peace and true love, and in Jesus we know we have found exactly that. When we depend on the Lord and proclaim his salvation to our neighbors and friends, then we pray that they too could proclaim with us the Easter message of Alleluia, Christ is Risen!

On Palm Sunday it was the 37th anniversary of my ordination as priest, and I am delighted that in this Easter season, on Friday April 27, we were able to ordain two clergy, one as priest, one as deacon. We give thanks to Almighty God for his amazing grace, and we pray for their faithful service to the Lord Jesus Christ.



Clergy gathered at the ordination on April 27, also includes RC clergy particularly from Fu-Jen University Seminary

March 26-31, 2012



From March 26-31, Bishop Lai led an ecumenical delegation of 22 clergy and laity from Taiwan to visit Mainland China for discussions with the China Christian Council (CCC), the Three-Self Patriotic Movement (TSPM), the Department for Religious Affairs (SARA) and other very important government and religious leaders.

This photo was taken with the delegation and the important officials in the Chinese government (Bishop Lai is sitting 4th from the left in the front row). The purpose of the meeting was to discuss cooperation between Taiwan and Mainland China in the area of Christianity. We would like to hold a conference at the end of this year or beginning of next year, through the Christian Tribune, to discuss how we can cooperate together in mission. In the

case of other religions, such conferences have already taken place and have been highly successful, so we hope that Christians can also hold a conference and bring the 2 sides of the straits together more. The leaders of both sides support this idea and we are now waiting for our dream to come true!

Our group also visited the original Anglican Cathedral in Shanghai, Trinity Cathedral, built in 1893 and recently remodeled and restored, now run by the National CCC. Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori and her group had visited the same cathedral only a few weeks earlier.

This was really a very fruitful visit to Mainland China, please do pray for us!

News from the Diocese of Taiwan

Bishop Lai was invited by Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori to represent her at the installation of the Rt. Rev. Datuk Bolly Lapok as the new Archbishop of S. E. Asia. The installation was held in Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia on February 12, 2012.

The Diocese of Taiwan was delighted to welcome Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori, her husband Richard, and Mr. Peter Ng, Asia Pacific Officer for The Episcopal Church, to visit Taiwan from February 28 to March 2. They visited St. James' Church, St. John's University, St. Stephen's Mission and attended the first day of the Diocesan Annual Synod on March 2, at which Presiding Bishop Katharine gave the sermon and opening address.

On March 10, Bishop Lai attended the consecration of Rt. Rev. Andrew M.L. Dietsche as Coadjutor Bishop of New York. He also attended the House of Bishops Spring Gathering in Texas from March 15-21.

Bishop Lai attended the consecration of Rt. Rev. Andrew Chan Au-Ming as Bishop of the Diocese of Western Kowloon, Hong Kong on March 25.

On April 27, the Diocese of Taiwan held an ordination service at St. John's Cathedral. Rev. Joseph Wu 吳明龍 was ordained priest, and Rev. Cheng Chen-Chang 鄭成章 was ordained deacon.

The Diocese of Taiwan welcomed the visit from the Diocese of Los Angeles of Suffragan Bishop Diane Jardine Bruce, Rev. Joshua Chan-Foo Ng, Vicar of St. Thomas' Episcopal Church, Hacienda Heights and Rev. Ada Wong Nagata, Associate for Asian Ministries from The Church of Our Savior, San Gabriel, to visit Taiwan from April 30 to May 3 (see photo below). They visited Good Shepherd Church, St. John's Cathedral, St. James' Church, Taichung and Sun Moon Lake. For more information, please see Bishop Diane's blog for an account of her visit here, plus photos of their trip: www.obispadjb.blogspot.com

We are delighted that Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori has confirmed that The Episcopal Church House of Bishops Autumn Meeting in 2014 will be held in Taiwan!



Welcoming visitors from the Diocese of Los Angeles: left to right: Rev. Ada Wong Nagata, Suffragan Bishop Diane Jardine Bruce, Bishop David J. H. Lai, Rev. Joshua Ng: photo taken at Epiphany Chapel at the diocesan office, Taipei

February 28-March 2, 2012

The visit to Asia of Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori, her husband Richard Schori and Mr. Peter Ng was reported and regularly updated on the Episcopal News Service (ENS) Blog by Richard Schori. His ENS Blog report for their visit to Taiwan is produced here.

‘Love the world into a new future’ presiding bishop tells Taiwan synod

By ENS staff | March 2, 2012



The Rev. David Chee interprets as Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori delivers a sermon to a meeting of the Diocesan Synod of the Diocese of Taiwan. Photo/Richard Schori

[Episcopal News Service] Drawing on her experiences during a tour of Episcopal and Anglican dioceses in Asia, Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori preached at the opening service for the Annual Synod of the Episcopal Diocese of Taiwan on March 2.

Noting the challenges facing people in many nations — poverty, homelessness, addiction, isolation, slavery, war and political upheaval — Jefferts Schori asked, “Where is the light? Where is hope for a different future?”

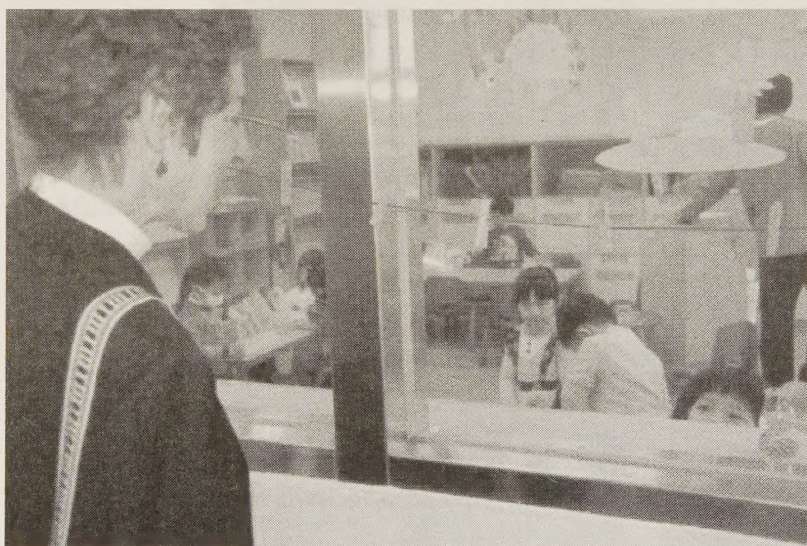
“Jesus’ response is to challenge us to embrace that suffering and hopelessness and let it be transformed by love,” she continued. “When he says, ‘those who lose their life will find it,’ he means turning toward that suffering rather than away from it. When we do, we will discover joy and life, rather than loneliness and hopelessness. There may still be captivity around us, but we have been set free to work toward a different reality.”

Losing your life, she said, means working with tsunami survivors in Japan, assisting farmers in the northern Philippines, advocating for peace and reunification in the Korean peninsula, helping gam-

bling addicts in Macau, breaking the cycle of drug and alcohol addiction in U.S. rural areas, offering healing and help to rape victims in Africa, aiding migrant workers everywhere, and seeing that children all over the world are educated so they can build a promising future.

“Losing your life in order to find it is primarily about turning yourself inside out, giving yourself away to love the world into a new future,” Jefferts Schori said. “That’s what it means to be the light of the world — to let the light planted within us shine out, and dispel the dark.”

The full text of the sermon follows.



Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori visits the kindergarten at St. James' Church, Taichung, Taiwan. Photo/Richard Schori

Taiwan, one of the 110 dioceses of the Episcopal Church, is the last stop on Jefferts Schori's three-week visit to Anglican Communion churches in Asia, including the Philippines, Japan, South Korea, China and Hong Kong. She was accompanied in Taiwan by Peter Ng, the Episcopal Church's global

partnership officer for Asia and the Pacific, and Richard Schori, the presiding bishop's husband.

During her time in Taiwan, the presiding bishop and her team also visited St. James' Episcopal Church in Taichung, Taiwan, on Feb. 29, accompanied by Bishop David Lai. St. James', which was founded 41 years ago at the request of U.S. servicemen, operates a popular kindergarten that serves 330 students ages 2 to 6. The kindergarten has a sister kindergarten in Boston, and the two schools occasionally exchange teachers. St. James' also has a community service program and sponsors classes for all ages, including lessons in English and other languages. Its congregation, under the leadership of the Rev. Charles Chen, has funded 12 churches in the Philippines.

Also on Feb. 29, the presiding bishop's party toured Tung Hai University in Taichung, an ecumenical university of which the Episcopal Church of Taiwan is a founding member. Guided by a campus official, they visited the "Luce Chapel," named after the Rev. Henry W. Luce (1868-1941), an Episcopal missionary who arrived in China in 1897. His elder son, Henry R. Luce, was the founder of Time, Life, and Fortune magazines.

On March 1, the group visited St. Johns' University near Taipei, founded by the Episcopal Church 45 years ago, and St. Stephen's Church, Keelung, a small mission in a depressed town that ministers to children and distressed families.

Richard Schori contributed reporting for this story. This article and the sermon that follows was taken from Richard Schori's article published on March 2 on the Episcopal New Service Blog:

<http://episcopaldigitalnetwork.com/ens/2012/03/02/love-the-world-into-a-new-future-presiding-bishop-tells-taiwan-synod/>

'The Whole Church Serving'

Sermon by The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, Presiding Bishop and Primate, The Episcopal Church

Greetings from the rest of The Episcopal Church, who pray for you. When Isaiah challenges the people to be a light to the nations, he could be speaking to this part of the body of Christ. We are not only present in many nations, but we are meant to reach beyond those boundaries to all the other nations of the world, shining light in darkness, proclaiming love where there is hate and division, speaking in languages and ways that other nations can understand.

Isaiah wrote to a people in exile, to refugees and hostages held for ransom, in pledge for those who remained in their occupied homeland. In some sense we are all held captive, waiting and working in eager anticipation for the world God intended at creation – a world of peace and justice for all peoples. Isaiah wrote to a people who were feeling hopeless, challenging them to become a witness to the new thing God is always doing, to be a light to other nations also in captivity.

We, too, are still captive, along with those who surround us. The ills and suffering of the present age are not so different from Isaiah's day, or Jesus'. People go to bed hungry, some sleep in subway stations or on the street. Others live in the prisons of addiction and grievous illness. Many live surrounded by the violence of war or the violence in their own homes and local communities. Some live in nations oppressed by overlords and tyrants. Countless numbers of children and adults are wage slaves, doomed to eke out a living hour by hour and day by day with little hope for anything more than dying young and exhausted. That reality is known in the poverty of the countryside as well as in wealthy city centers, where many people live lonely and disconnected lives even in the midst of crowds. Some are still sent off to prison for trivial crimes or reasons of conscience, or to labor camps where they



disappear, forgotten. Where is the light, where is hope for a different future?

Jesus' response is to challenge us to embrace that suffering and hopelessness and let it be transformed by love. When he says, "those who lose their life will find it," he means turning toward that suffering rather than away from it. When we do, we will discover joy and life, rather than loneliness and hopelessness. There may still be captivity around us, but we have been set free to work toward a different reality.

Losing your life in order to find abundant life in Japan (Sendai and Tohoku) looks like working with tsunami survivors, teaching new job skills, sharing tea ceremonies with the displaced who are living lonely lives in temporary housing after their villages were destroyed.

Losing your life in Shanghai looks like building homes for senior citizens, offering community and shelter to abandoned and lonely elders of many different faith traditions.

Losing your life in the northern Philippines is building simple tramways for terrace farmers to haul implements, water, seeds, and crops up and down the steep and trackless hillsides.

It means advocating for peace and reunification on the Korean peninsula, sending rice to those who are starving in the North, continuing to seek ways to bring fearful governments to the negotiating table, as well as bringing Anglicans together from across the world to learn the ways of peace.

Losing your life means offering hope to gambling addicts in Macau, alcoholics in Honolulu, and drug addicts in rural communities in the United States. It means offering shelter, community, and hospitality to Filipino migrant workers in Hong Kong, Japan,

Korea, and Saipan. It means advocating for just immigration policies everywhere, so that human beings might find decent and dignified ways to feed themselves and their families.

Losing your life in Congo means Anglicans welcoming rape victims into shelters, where they can find healing and support for rebuilding their lives. Those women have had their lives taken away from them by violence, violence repeated as they and the children born to them are shunned and discarded by their husbands, families, and churches. Would you lose your life for these human beings despised by their own society?

People of all ages discover new life in schools around the world, begun and supported by people who lose themselves in the work of teaching. Hong Kong is a province of some 30,000 to 40,000 yet serves several times as many school children. The Diocese of Haiti teaches 80,000 from preschool through university. Liberia is slowly rebuilding from civil war through the human capital developed in diocesan schools. Children in Taiwan are finding unexpected abundance in the kindergartens of this diocese. A man named Paul Rusch lost himself in love for the Japanese people beginning in the 1920s. He was expelled as the Second World War began, but he returned afterward to start a farming school, teaching desperately hungry people how to raise dairy cattle in the mountains. Today the milk and ice cream of that farm support an environmental program that teaches a new ethic for engaging the earth.

Losing your life in order to find it is primarily about turning yourself inside out, giving yourself away to love the world into a new future. That's what it means to be the light of the world – to let the light planted within us shine out, and dispel the dark. As the psalmist says, "weeping may last for a night, but joy comes in the morning" (Psalm 30:5). When we embrace the weeping of the night, we begin to partake in that creative dawn, that shedding of light



into the world, and we begin to be a light to the nations.

Will you take up your cross? Will you embrace the suffering around you, and let it touch your heart? Will you let love flow through you to heal that brokenness? Those who do will find their own lives renewed and redeemed in the process. That is the road to resurrection and new life. That is the direction in which the morning light dawns.

Embrace the suffering around you, and you will discover what Isaiah dreamed of: "Sing for joy, O

heavens, and exult, O earth; break forth, O mountains, into singing! For the LORD has comforted his people, and will have compassion on his suffering ones." May this season of Lent bring a new willingness to see the suffering around us and embrace them. That is the road to peace and light and life abundant. Peace and light be with you!



Photos included on the preceding page show Presiding Bishop Katharine serving Holy Communion at the Synod opening service. Above photo shows Presiding Bishop Katharine and clergy of the Diocese of Taiwan, gathered for the Opening Service of the Synod, held at Trinity Church Keelung.

The Fulfillment of Filial Piety

From a sermon by Rev. Dr. Charles C. T. Chen, Rector Emeritus of St. James' Church,
Taichung, given in honor of Mother's Day

'Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill'. Matthew 5:17

Filial Piety has long been one of the greatest ethical themes in Chinese thought. Unfortunately the viewpoint of Christians towards this issue has been misunderstood by non-Christians both in the past and present. As Mother's Day approaches on the second Sunday in May, I want to raise this issue for further reflection and understanding for both Chinese and foreigners, and for Christians and non-Christians, in fact all those who are interested in Chinese culture. Confucius said: Those people with an abundance of virtue are those who prudently take care in making funeral arrangements for their parents and who offer sacrifices to remote ancestors 慎終追遠,民德厚矣.

One of the differences between man and beast is that man knows how to honor parents as well as to worship God. These are not in conflict with each other; rather they are mutually supportive. Christianity takes the traditional Chinese teaching of filial piety, and rather than abolishing it, brings it to fulfillment. 'Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have not come to abolish but to fulfill'. In what way does this happen?

First let us look at the fifth commandment: 'Honor your father and mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you'. Exodus 20:12. The first to the fourth commandments speak of the love relationship between man and God, and the fifth to the tenth commandments speak of relationships among people. So the spiritual concept of the entire 10 commandments speaks of the doctrine of the love of God and the love of man. Filial piety is mentioned first among the commandments related to love for people, and is the foundation of all Christian ethics and morality.

Next let us look at St. Paul's teachings to the early Christians from Ephesians 6: 1-3, and we can see how much Paul values filial piety: 'Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother, this is the first commandment with a promise so that it may go well with you and you may live long on the earth'. Paul stresses that this is the first commandment with a promise, that in this world, you can receive prosperity in family life, longevity and wealth.

Filial piety is not only important Christian ethics; it is also the core of Chinese culture. The Analects say: 'A noble man must esteem the root; when the root is established, the way (Tao) is engendered'. Filial piety is the root of human charity (jen: similar to love). Since Christianity and Chinese culture



Good Shepherd Church Ancestor Memorial Liturgy
2012



both esteem filial piety, filial piety can serve as a bridge for communication between the two. Christianity has been established in Taiwan for about 150 years, but finds it difficult to accept the ritual of Taiwanese worship of the ancestors (pai kung-ma). As a result, the ordinary people misunderstand Christianity and consider it to be a religion lacking in filial piety. During Christian funerals, there is no loud wailing or dressing in rough linen clothes to express utmost sorrow. The folk religionists have for many years ridiculed Christians: 'Fallen into Christianity, no one weeps when people die' or 'Christianity, no ancestor worship' (bo kung bo ma: no grandfather, no grandmother). This has been a great obstacle to the proclamation of the Gospel.

There are 2 big differences between Christian filial piety and Chinese filial piety:

Firstly, the foundation of Christian filial piety is quite different from the foundation of Chinese filial piety. Theo-centric filial piety stresses firstly filial piety towards God, and secondly towards man. We must first love and give thanks to God in the great love of Christ, and then show filial piety towards our parents. Confucian humanistic-centered filial piety is expressed only towards man, not to heaven. It also stresses a stern father and emperor to match with Heaven. The Book Of Rites says: 'All things

are derived from Heaven; man is derived from the ancestors', consequently this is to match Shang-Ti (God - supreme emperor). Another saying is: 'Therefore, the benevolent man is to serve parents as serving Heaven; to serve Heaven as serving parents'. This is regarded as the incarnation of the filial son. A popular proverb says: "The emperor wants to give his subject the death of grace; no death, no loyalty. The father wants the son to die; no death, no filial piety." You can see that the stern father takes the place of God's spirit and the emperor is equivalent to God; this shows that man is regarded as

God. Of course in Christianity only God is divine, so our attitude towards our ancestors is one of respect, not worship.

Secondly, Christianity lays stress on filial piety towards the living rather than the dead. But traditional Chinese culture emphasizes serving the dead as serving the living. When a relative dies, people hold elaborate funerals and a long period of mourning for the glory of the ancestors. The Book of Filial Piety says: "Establishing personality by practicing the Tao (logos) for the exaltation of the next generation and glorification of parents." This is the ultimate filial piety. Christianity stresses the importance of filial piety while the parents are still alive. A popular Taiwanese proverb states: "While living, having a bean is better than sacrificing a big pig head after death." Another Chinese poem says: "The tree likes to be steady, but the winds are still blowing unceasingly; the children want to nourish their parents in the world, but they are already departed." Based on the spirit of this poem, we realize that serving the living is really much more filial and practical than serving the dead.

Conclusion: In Confucianism, filial piety is the root of charity (jen: similar to love). The Chinese character jen is composed of 2 persons. Ones personality encounters with the others personality, just like

what Martin Buber ascertained: 'I and Thou' relationship, rather than 'I and it' relationship. Furthermore, charity (jen) is the source of filial piety. Therefore, both charity and filial piety are derived from the utmost sincerity and love.

In Chinese culture, charity and love (jen ai) are reciprocal, mutually beneficial and conditional. But from the Christian perspective, this charity and love is Agape love, a divine love, unconditional and sacrificial holy love. It is really a very sharp contrast. This holy love of Christ compels us to honor our parents sincerely in Christ. By this Agape love, we can fulfill our humanistic-centered filial piety, to be made perfect for his glory. And this Agape love is the only and the best way to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus and to attract more people to Christ in order to expedite church growth.

Now we realize that both charity (jen) and filial piety are derived from love in the utmost sincerity. And the Agape love is from God and for their perfect fulfillment. This kind of love is not theoretical understanding but must come from practical experience in action for it to be more meaningful. And now I want to share a story: The 3 Little Pigs Revisited.

'Years had passed since the crisis with the wolf. The family of 3 little pigs had settled down comfortably in their brick house in the suburbs. Gradually boredom had set in. Each of the little pigs felt empty. One day they decided that what they were missing had to do with love, and they determined to go and seek love's meaning.

The first little pig went to the library and read all he could on the subject of love. When he finished he had learned a great deal but still felt empty.

The second little pig read in the newspaper that a famous pig was coming to town to deliver a series of lectures on the topic of love. This second little pig attended all the lectures and was filled with enthusiasm. His emotional high lasted four days. After that his life was pretty much what it was before.

The third little pig invited two other pig families over to the house one evening. All three families began sharing their life stories and continued late into the night. They found this so interesting that they decided to meet like this regularly. After several months they discovered that they knew and cared about each other deeply.

One evening after the other families had left, the third little pig spoke to the others. Now I know what love is, he said, for I have experienced it.'



Finally let us apply the golden verse 5:17 of the Gospel from St. Matthew to make a clarification: "Do not think that I have come to abolish the filial piety and the humanistic-centered charity of Chinese culture or any of the teachings of Chinese saints and prophets, I have come not to abolish but to fulfill."

A New Arrangement For A New Step Forward

News from our companion diocese: Diocese of Osaka

Rev. Akira Peter Iwaki

Dean at Kawaguchi Christ Church, Cathedral, Osaka Diocese, Anglican/Episcopal Church of Japan

April 25, St. Mark's Day, saw the ordination of three deacons for the Diocese of Osaka. 200 people attended the ordination service and the party afterwards. It was a great joy for the church people, especially for the three churches for which the three deacons are dispatched – Holy Redeemer's, Nishinomiya St. Peter's and Takatsuki St. Mary's. Two of them are members of the Taiwan Exchange Committee of the Diocese.

Prior to the ordination, the Bishop's office announced a new arrangement of the clergy by reshuffling some priests. As of March 31, two priests retired – Rev. John Yukio Kimura and Rev. Williams

Nobuyoshi Takeuchi. The information of the new clergy allocation has already been sent to the Taiwan Episcopal Church.

The Diocese has also set up an Ad Hoc Committee to prepare a mission conference on the Diocesan level this summer, which is to be held before the provincial mission conference to be convened in September. The diocesan mission conference will take place in July to discuss five topics in mission – youth mission, aging society, bringing up new mission workers, prayer and services, and social minority. The conference is expected to open up a new horizon in the mission and life of the Diocese.

Diocese of Taiwan Retired Clergy Trip to Kinmen (Jinmen) and Xiamen

By Rev. Charles C. T. Chen

A group of our retired clergy visited the island of Kinmen, and the Xiamen area in Mainland China from April 16-20, 2012. Our trip this time to Kinmen and Xiamen was wonderful. Apart from sightseeing, I think that most of us had the feeling and spirit of returning to our roots, Tung-An, Jang-Jou and Jhuan-Jou in the province of Fujian where our ancestors emigrated from about 100 to 350 years ago. We really had very marvelous fellowship and spiritual refreshment. In the traditional Anglican blessing, we really knew "the peace of God which passes all understanding".

On our trip we experienced in a very practical and down-to-earth way the peace, joy and

grace of God pouring down on us, beyond our expectation and understanding, abundantly and miraculously as we traveled. As a matter of fact, no one could have known or even dreamed that an



'angel', Mr. Chang Guo-Wei, a newly successful entrepreneur, (who was baptized and confirmed at St. John's Cathedral, Taipei about 20 years ago) would be so incredibly generous as to arrange our dinner nearly every day on a complimentary basis. He traveled both to Xiamen and Kinmen especially for the purpose of treating us to have an exquisite dinner every day, either at his brother's home in a fisherman's community or at a well-known restaurant serving the very best seafood. His fervent and generous hospitality deeply touched our hearts.

Furthermore, at the final banquet entertainment on the last day before our departure back to Taiwan, Mr. Chang, our dear brother in Christ, also very generously presented us each with a gift, a bottle of the best Kinmen Kau-liang (wine) and two bags of the most famous Kinmen Gong-tang (sweets). He expressed such gorgeous and tremendous hospitality, he simply just wanted to express his profound praise and gratitude to God in Christ for his recent success in business. How miraculously God has

blessed him in Christ, overwhelmingly in richness and fruitfulness in the achievement of running his construction business in Mainland China.

We were all deeply impressed and grateful for his love and kindness and his genuine faith in Christ; and we were also thankful for the outstanding way in which he showed his love for us, the Lord's servants. I think that there is no other better way for us than to work harder for Christ's ministry, in order to express our heartfelt gratitude in response to this loving and respectable brother in Christ for what he has done for us.

May God in the inspiration of the Holy Spirit sustain and move every one of us in Christ to work together tightly and harmoniously in his love for the further extension of the kingdom of God in the mission of Christ.



Our retired clergy group on our trip!

Visit to Taiwan by Ron and Toni Noah

Returning to Taiwan for a visit had been high on our list of priorities for several years. We lived and taught at St. John's University (then Saint John's and Saint Mary's Institute of Technology) from July 2000 to July 2002 and hadn't really had a chance - except for a few days in 2004 - to go back to visit since. So, when we received an invitation last winter to a March 19, 2012 wedding in Taipei, we jumped at the chance!

During the two years we lived in Taiwan we worshiped at Advent Church on the St. John's Campus. Even though we didn't manage to learn enough Mandarin to communicate effectively we felt comfortable and very much at home there. We knew that for ten years we had missed Advent, its members and the other friends we had made in the Diocese of Taiwan; but did not realize how much until we came back.

As we left Taoyuan International Airport, on our arrival in Taiwan, a wonderful sensation began to sweep over us as we realized we were feeling less



like ex-expatriates returning to visit former acquaintances and more like travelers returning home to old friends. Once in a while most of us have experienced meeting an old friend after many years separation and immediately falling into a conversation that made it seem like it was only yesterday when we were last together. Coming home to Taiwan we experienced an entire week of conversations like that.

Our first stop after the airport was at a restaurant for a welcome banquet with a number of friends, including several from Advent Church. (In the photo above, Ron and Toni are pictured at the welcome banquet with Gary and Anna, who had invited Ron and Toni to their wedding on March 19). Among them were Rev. and Mrs. Lennon Chang (張員榮牧師及師母), our priest and neighbor and shepherd and nurturer during our two years at St. John's; Christina Hai (海小燕) (see photo left) without



whom we would not have been able to set up our house, read and understand many, many documents, supervise the English Club or generally survive what seemed like thousands of minor (an a couple of major) crises; Paul Cheng (鄭培恩) who was often there to chat with us after church and make sure we were getting along; Ronald Kan (閻興漢), who, with his wife Angela (趙純慧), generously loaned us his son Joseph (閻常恕) for two years after we left Taiwan; Hsu Tse-Chien (徐澤倩) who taught us how to stuff shuei-jiao dumplings (水餃) and was always available to straighten out our confusion and make us laugh; and Andy Chang (張中平) and Charlotte Chow (周玉華) who have, since the day we met them, done more for us than we can ever describe, or adequately thank them for.

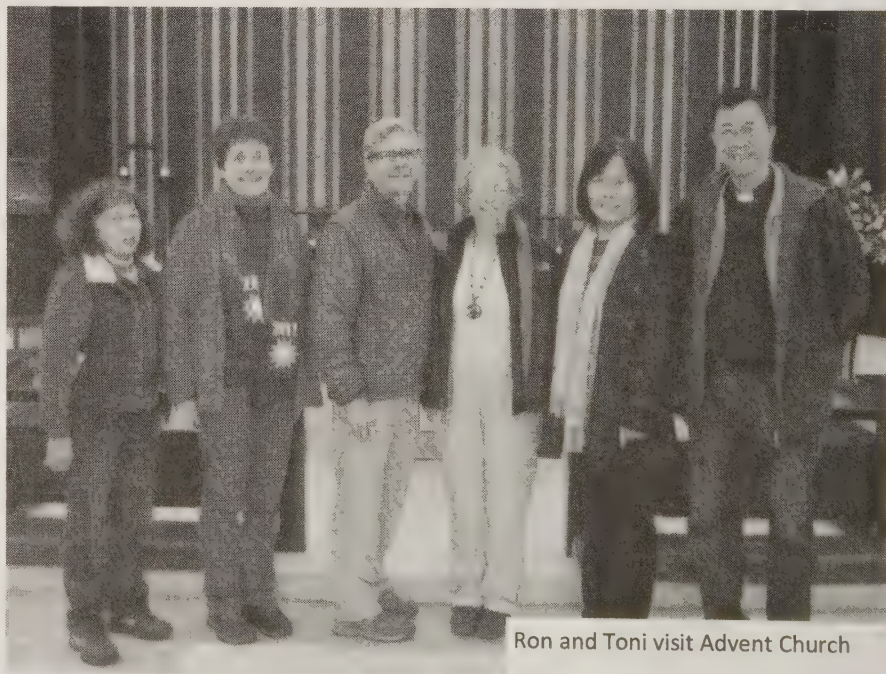
It was at this dinner on our first night back in Taiwan that we began to recall some of the many life enriching gifts we received during our two years in Taiwan. Foremost among these gifts was an understanding of the concept of church as community.

It has been our experience in the United States that when you mention your church, most people think of a building, usually a building that is only used a few hours a week. Many church members seem to feel that a weekly, or less, attendance at an hour long Sunday church service, plus an annual donation, is full and active participation. After Sunday services church is filed away for the rest of the week. That's not how it appeared to us that things work at Advent.

There was a building where church members congregated for worship at least once a week, but

the building was only a place. The Church was much more than a building. Church was the focus and reference point of the life of the people in the Advent Community - more than a building, it was a way of life.

When we visited Rev. Richard Lee (李瑞強牧師), his wife Belinda Fang (方思韻) and Rev. Julia Lin (林淑華牧師) in Keelung a few days later, we remembered just how important the church building itself was in the life of the Episcopal Church in Taiwan, although in a different way than it is important in the United States. In addition to being places of worship, church buildings in Taiwan have been used for decades to benefit their congregations and nearby communities spiritually, educationally and economically. Not only in Keelung, but throughout the diocese, church buildings are used as places of religious and secular education, recreation, cultural activities, and protection. The remodeling of Holy Trinity and the leasing and purchasing the property of St. Stephen's in Keelung to be used for the benefit of the community and the pervasive sponsorship of kindergartens by Taiwan's Episcopal congregations are examples of prudent uses of church buildings.



Ron and Toni visit Advent Church

Recently the Episcopal Church Building Fund has begun a pilot program to assist churches in the United States begin to utilize their buildings in different ways to provide additional cash flow to churches and benefits to the communities surrounding them. So far eight churches have gone through this training program. The model for this program has been operating in Taiwan for scores of years.

A few days after we returned to Iowa from Taiwan we attended a workshop sponsored by the Diocese of Iowa's Global Ministry group. "Global Ministry" is roughly defined as any activity that takes place outside a church building or which involves non-members. It may, but does not have to, include international contacts.

At this workshop the Right Reverend Alan Scarfe, Bishop of Iowa, asked the group to keep in mind two things. First, he asked the group to remember that outreach ministry usually results in the individual going out into the wider world receiving more than he or she gives, often in the form of spiritual growth. Second, Bishop Scarfe urged everyone present to return to their churches and reflect on how their buildings could be used more effectively to aid in God's work on a daily basis. We could not help but think how well this was already being practiced in Taiwan.

At Advent, church seemed to be about loving God and one another, caring for one another, and being available to one another seven days a week. Often it was also providing one another with a job, or a new skill, or support and encouragement in difficult times. The dinner we shared with Rev. Phillip Ho (何政隆牧師) and his wife 廖小蘭 and daughter 何佳恩 (see photo below) reminded us of the strength and support we had observed and experienced in Advent Church. The powerful and active faith that Phillip and his family possess is mirrored and enhanced as it moves through the congregation and beyond the walls of the church.

At Advent Church we saw a community whose members believed and acted on the principles they learned in church, and who also worked, played, studied, laughed and grieved with each other. They turned to one and other as naturally and completely as flowers turn toward the sun, and they made us believers in their dedication to living a life that reflected their belief in Jesus Christ. They took us into their community and their family and shared their lives and their beliefs with us. We will always be grateful. Sometimes, in some places, you can go home again.



ADVENT CHURCH, TAMSUI

Rev Lennon Chang Yuan-Rung 張員榮牧師 Rev. David Chee 徐子賢牧師

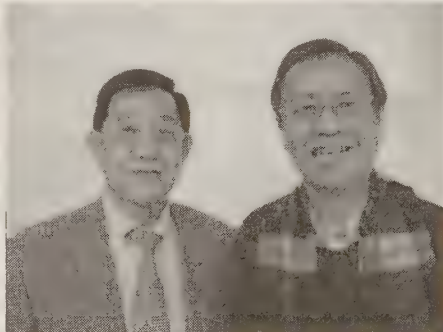
Rev. Cheng Chen-Chang 鄭成章會吏

The Advent Church retreat was held on Saturday March 17 at Jinshan R. C. Church.



We were honored to welcome Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori, her husband Richard and Mr. Peter Ng to visit Advent Church on March 1. We have also welcomed a number of other visitors this semester including Rev. Vern Jones from California, and visitors for the Memorial Service for Rev. John David Echols, former chaplain of St. John's University.

We are extremely grateful to Rev. Lin Kuo-Shing (pictured above right with President Andrew Chang) for his amazing fundraising efforts for our Advent Church Center. Unbeknown to us, he was quietly fundraising for our church center in his home country of Singapore. On Sunday March 25, he and a group



from Singapore came to Advent Church to present us with the fruits of their labors, NT\$ 300,000 in cash (see photo below left)! Praise the Lord for their devotion and willingness to help us!



Our new Advent Church Center is now starting to become a reality. We give thanks to God that the fundraising target of NT\$ 18 million was reached just before Chinese New Year, and a Thanksgiving Service is being held on Saturday May 12. The local government gave us planning permission in mid-April, and a building permit is hopefully on its way. Please join us in praying for this new church center.

On Easter Eve, we welcomed 5 young people for baptism. 4 of them, all young men, are students at St. John's University and have become Christians through the ministry of the SJU Chaplaincy. Interestingly one of them had a motorcycle accident a few weeks previously which led to a broken leg, cuts, bruises and several broken teeth. Before the accident he had been struggling with the decision about being baptized, but as a result of the accident and the care of his friends in the SJU Student Fellowship, he was so moved, as were his parents, that not only did they give him their blessing, his mother actually came to the service! This is him in the photo below left, and above as they are all signed with the sign of the cross. 3 of his friends in the Student Fellowship were also moved to join him, and also one girl, the daughter of one of our church members who was herself only baptized a year or so ago.



We are delighted that our evangelist Cheng Chen-Chang was ordained deacon on April 27, 2012 at St. Johns' Cathedral, Taipei! Congratulations to him. Our church choir sang during the ordination service, and many church members attended. (see photo below right)



ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY, TAMSUI

Chaplain: Rev Lennon Chang Yuan-Rung 張員榮牧師

Visit to St John's University of Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori

It was a great pleasure to welcome the Presiding Bishop and Primate of The Episcopal Church, the Most Rev.

Katharine Jefferts Schori to visit St. John's University on Thursday March 1, 2012. Also in the group were Presiding Bishop Katharine's husband Dr. Richard Schori, the Asia-Pacific Officer for the Episcopal Church, Mr. Peter Ng, and the Bishop of Taiwan, Rt. Rev. David J. H. Lai.

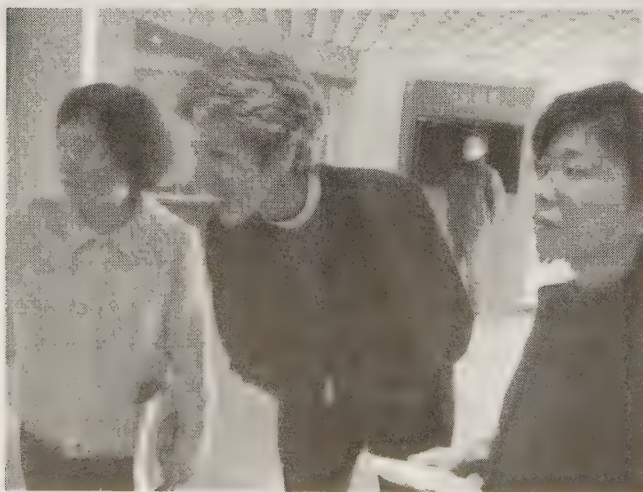


library. On her visit to St. John's University, Presiding Bishop Katharine had the opportunity to meet with St. John's University Library Director, Ms. Cheng, who also led her on a guided tour of the School History Room (see photo below).

Presiding Bishop Katharine presented St. John's University's President, Dr. Jean-Lien Chen with a copy of her own book (see photo left), and President Chen pre-

sented Presiding Bishop Katharine with a crystal glass model of Advent Church. On her visit to Advent Church (see photo right, on page 19), Presiding Bishop Katharine was able to hear about the development of our new Advent Church Center, to be built behind the church building. We plan to start construction this summer; it will give us much-needed extra space and resources to take care of our students. We have applied to the Episcopal Church 'United Thank Offering' (UTO) for a grant for a handicap elevator and other equipment, so once again we are grateful to the Episcopal Church for supporting us in our ministry.

Since 1991, St. John's University Library has received about US\$ 300,000 from The Henry Herbert Smythe Trust, which has close links to the Episcopal Church. We are so grateful for this money and its contribution to the development of our university



The Bishop of Taiwan, the Rt. Rev. David J. H. Lai has announced the good news that the Episcopal Church 'House of Bishops' plans to meet in Taiwan in the autumn of 2014. We warmly welcome the House of Bishops to Taiwan, and we hope that there will be an opportunity for them to visit St. John's University during their stay.

We thank God for the support and prayers of the Episcopal Church and feel deeply honored that Presiding Bishop Katharine could spare time to visit us in the midst of a very busy schedule. We have also requested her to continue to pray for St. John's Uni-

versity and our future development, especially as we face increasing pressures trying to maintain student numbers along with high academic standards.



Memorial Service for Rev. David Echols

Just after Chinese New Year, the Diocese of Taiwan and St. John's University Chaplaincy were notified by Mrs. Anne Echols of Seattle, USA, of the death of her husband John David Echols on January 28, 2012. David Echols, then known as Fr. Echols (see photo right), was Chaplain here from August 1967 to July 1969. At that time St. John's University was known as St. John's and St. Mary's Institute of Technology, and there was no Advent Church building, instead they met in the Cana building that is now used as a breakfast store on the campus! As well as chaplaincy duties, David Echols was also the accountant and had many responsibilities teaching

English, repairing buildings and was also in charge of the Good Shepherd English congregation!



In his will, David Echols kindly left US\$ 10,000 to St John's University. David was always very concerned with helping the needy, so half of the money has gone to a special fund, now named after Fr. Echols; this money is used to help needy students with their daily meals. Students apply through their form tutor, and 20 of them are selected each semester to receive meal coupons, two a day each day Monday to Friday, each worth NT\$ 50 and exchangeable at our student canteens and food court for meals.

Amazingly when Chaplain Rev. Lennon Chang notified his friends and classmates from the university (Lennon himself is also a graduate of St. John's and St. Mary's Institute of Technology, but just after Fr. Echol's time) of Fr. Echol's generosity, one classmate was so moved that he made a promise that from now until the end of his life, he will donate US\$ 10,000 each year to the Fr. Echols Fund for Needy Students! Praise the Lord indeed!

The other half of David's Echol's money will be used for the new Advent Church Center, particularly the kitchen furnishings so that we can start to cook meals for the needy students and invite them to come to chaplaincy and evangelistic activities.

On Wednesday March 21, St. John's University held a Memorial Service for David Echols in Advent Church. The preacher was Rev. Charles C. T. Chen who traveled from Taichung to share his memories of David. Charles took over as chaplain after David left in 1969. SJU Lecturer Mr. Micah Lu, who was a student under David Echols and remembers him well, shared his memories. All the students who receive meal coupons from the Fr. Echol's Fund also attended the service, plus about

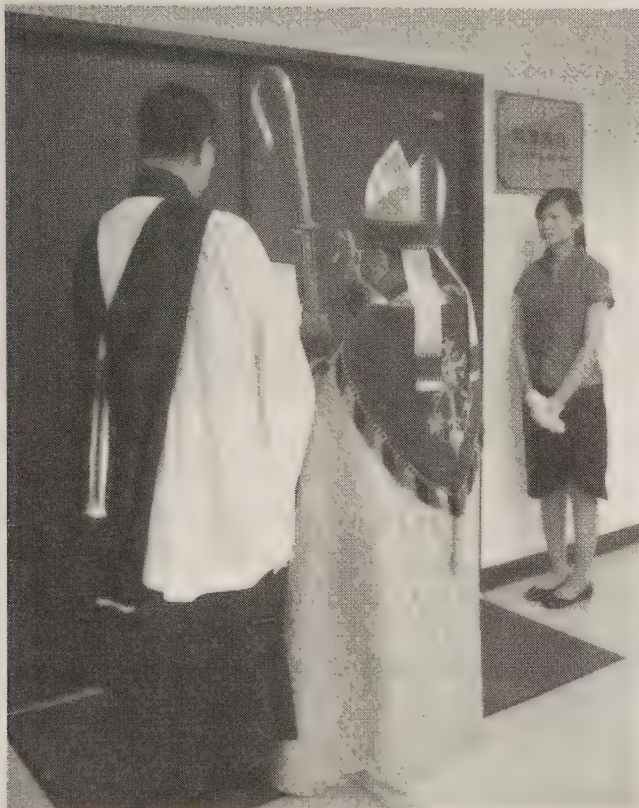


100 staff, students and friends. The staff Christian fellowship formed a choir and sang for the occasion. David's widow, Anne, kindly supplied us with photos of David taken through the years. SJU President Dr. Chen Jean-Lien attended the service, and also donated the white orchids in David's memory (see photo above).



President Chen Jean-Lien, Rev. Charles C. T. Chen, Chaplain Rev. Lennon Chang and others who attended the Memorial Service

St. John's University celebrates 45 years in Taiwan!



nal St. John's University in Shanghai, China, all in their 80's and 90's; and many from our sister schools, mostly in Mainland China. On Friday April 27, a large number of the SJU Shanghai alumni were invited to St. John's University for the opening of the David W. K. Au Hall and the School History Room, both on the fourth floor of the SJU new administrative building. Both rooms were dedicated and blessed by Bishop David J. H. Lai (see photo left).

Mr. David W. K. Au 歐偉國 was a devout Christian who graduated from St. John's University, Shanghai in 1918, and was at one time treasurer of the Episcopal Church of China, as well as serving on the board of St. John's University and St Mary's Hall for more than 20 years. In 1952, he moved to Hong Kong where he helped establish Chung Chi College and invited to become the first president. His son Mr. Duncan Au 歐德強, chairman of DEKS AIR (Hong Kong) Ltd and a member of St. John's Cathedral, Hong Kong donated NT\$ 2 million and opened the hall in memory of his father (see photo below of Mr. Au presenting the check to SJU President Chen Jean-Lien).

On April 26, 2012, St. John's University celebrated 45 years since it was established in Taiwan, and we had a whole week of celebrations! The climax was 3 days of special activities starting with a special service at Advent Church on Thursday April 26. This day marked the actual anniversary of the establishment of SJU. The following day, April 27 marked the 42nd anniversary of the death of Bishop James Wong, who dedicated his ministry as bishop to establishing this institution, and is buried under the altar at Advent Church. The service therefore was both a Thanksgiving and Memorial Service, the preacher was Rev. Charles C. T. Chen, and the service was attended by President Chen Jean-Lien, staff and students.

Over 120 visitors from overseas attended our anniversary celebrations, many alumni from the origi-



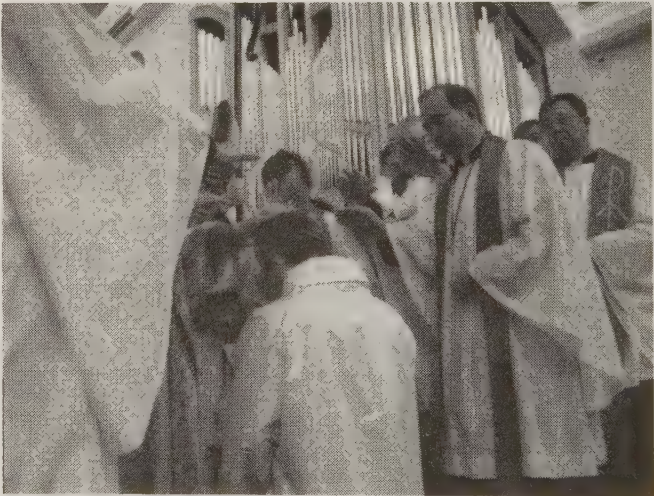
The School History Room is a wonderful new state-of-the-art exhibition of the history of St. John's University, Shanghai and it's establishment in Taiwan. As well as displays of photos, information, artifacts and literature, there is also an oral history display, and audio information in English introducing each section. After the dedication, the visitors were given a tour of the displays by SJU Library Director Ms. Cheng.



ST. LUKE'S CHURCH, HUA-LIEN

Rev. Joseph Wu Ming-Long 吳明龍牧師

We praise God for the ordination of Rev. Joseph Wu to the priesthood on April 27 in St. John's Cathedral! Joseph was ordained deacon many years ago and has been serving in a non-stipendiary capacity while he continued his work in business. Three years ago he started full time theological study at Fu-Jen R. C. Seminary and is about to graduate this summer. Please pray for him, his mother, his wife and 2 young children (see photo below). Photos here show his ordination service.



Rev. Lily Chang Ling-Ling 張玲玲牧師, English Chaplain: Rev. Herbert Barker

Good Shepherd Chinese Congregation is extremely busy sharing the gospel and establishing the outreach center in Chung-Li. May 1, 2012 was the first anniversary of the start of the outreach ministry, and the center had a cake to celebrate after the service on May 6! We are grateful to Bishop Lai for assigning seminarian Ms. Tsai Ching-Yi to Chung-Li starting in May 2012, we are looking forward to welcoming her to the center to develop the ministry, particularly at weekends.



On Easter Eve, we had our first baptism of a member of the Chung-Li Outreach Center.

Ms. Lee is a young mother with 2 small sons who has been coming regularly to the center for mid-week activities and Sunday services. Her sons come regularly to the Sunday School. She was very keen to be baptized, but her husband wouldn't give his blessing to her or to their sons to be baptized, so

she asked if she could be baptized on Easter Eve at Good Shepherd, so it would be a bit more low-key. The baptism went ahead, and she was overjoyed to be able to join the Christian family. Please pray for her and the outreach ministry at Chung-Li.

Currently Rev. Lily Chang attends the Chung-Li Sunday service twice a month and takes a service of Holy Communion. Tim Pan, senior warden at Good Shepherd also comes twice a month and leads a Morning Prayer service. Rev. Chen is a Lutheran Minister from Malaysia who is studying for his doctorate at Taiwan Theological College, Taipei, and worships at Good Shepherd Church. He also comes once a month. Mr. Richard Hu also comes sometimes, Catherine Lee comes once a month for an English Sunday School (see photo) and the Good Shepherd Choir and youth group have also visited to share in the ministry.

Good Shepherd's English Congregation

Koinonia----Rejoicing in Intimate participation----Belonging, Believing, Befriending

Our aim for this article is to report on our Koinonia life beyond the manger, the magi, the desert temptations, the garden, the cross, and the empty tomb. We hope to share with you glimpses of our oasis ministry and our communal life.

Do recall from last fall's Friendship Magazine's piece that we, at Good Shepherd's English Congregation, have a shared vision of our mission and

community from the view point of Koinonia. We said then that we understand Koinonia as the Anglicization of a Greek word (κοινωνία) that means communion by intimate participation. We claim unity with the early New Testament church that speaks of its fellowship as Koinonia, the Body of Christ.

As we compose this piece, we realize that we do not

understand the church seasons as liturgical stages that ground our present spiritual journey. We see that Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Holy Week, and Easter are mysterious vehicles upon which we have moved together in our mutual community life.

During Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany we found renewal in the wonder of small study groups and in larger fellowship events with adults and children rejoicing together in the themes of the season: hope, joy, peace, love, and light.

We met in the homes of members of our community. At Father Barker's home we had lunches, viewed films [*Joyeux Noel* and *A Christmas Carol*], and had lively discussions about the transforming themes of incarnation theology.

In the season of Epiphany, in our sermons and in devotional group sessions with adults, we considered the mutual cultural themes of Chinese New Year and Christ as light of the world that share displays of Heaven's union with Earth.

During Lent we combined adult discussion groups with confirmation training sessions. We explored considering letting go of conventional, religious, ritual fasting; and to take on a festive, opening up with confirmation candidates ideas that a Prodigal God calls all of us to come home to a feast of reconciliation. We can get lost in ritual and religion, but a Prodigal Heavenly Father forever seeks us out; and He welcomes us home with extravagant, profuse love.

Holy Week's Love Feast, Easter's festive fellowship brunch and Easter Egg Hunt launched us beyond being followers and spectators of God's salvation history.

We begin new lives as prodigal witnesses of God's salvation to all nations. We have become koinonia, the Body of Christ, who through love and service will heal and unite a scattered and broken people. Lead on, Oh King Eternal! We follow without fear into your kingdom coming.

Amen.



TRINITY CHURCH, KEELUNG

Rev. Richard Lee Ray-Chiang 李瑞強牧師

The highlight of this year so far has been the annual diocesan synod, which Trinity Church hosted this year for the first time in 31 years! What was extra-special was that Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori honored us with her presence at the opening service at Trinity Church, where she also gave the sermon. About 80 people took part in the opening service. Our group photo is shown below. We had many church members on hand to help and assist, and praise the Lord everything went very smoothly. After the opening service, the meals and the actual synod meetings took place in a neighboring restaurant hall, but we continued to be on hand for assistance. In the afternoon of the first day of the synod, after Presiding Bishop Katharine's sharing time, her husband Richard had a chance to share with our clergy spouses in Trinity Church on the fourth floor (see photo right).

Two special activities recently have been the Easter Day outing after the service to the seaside. Over 70 people came along and we spent the afternoon playing games, egg hunt and sharing fellowship to-



gether. It was a really beautiful area, on steep high cliffs overlooking the ocean with spectacular views.

We were pleased to welcome the visit of Rev. and Mrs. Guo from St. Peter's Church, Hong Kong and a group of 7 in total. Last year they sent a group to run an English camp for us, and they are also planning on sending another group this summer. They came to visit our church and to pray for us. We really appreciate their support!



ST. STEPHEN'S MISSION, KEELUNG

Rev. Julia Lin Shu-Hua 林淑華牧師

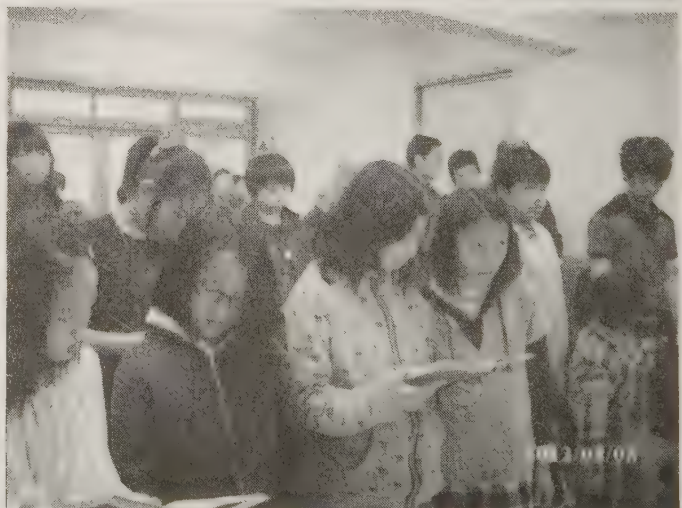
We are delighted that so many people came along to our Holy Week and Easter services! On Maundy Thursday we had a special service to remember the last meal that Jesus had with his disciples, along with foot-washing. We invited all the children who take classes at our center, elementary school children and about 15 junior-high school students, and they all came along. Over 40 attended the service. At our service, our teachers washed the feet of our students, so it was a very moving experience for everyone.

On Easter Day we had about 60 people at our morning service! We have a small building, so 60 is quite a squash, but we were so happy that so many came along. We invited all our students and their parents, so there were lots of non-Christians and people from the local community.

After the service we invited everyone to a special Easter lunch, and more than 70 people came along. It was

a wonderful time of fellowship for us all. The photos here all show our Holy Week and Easter activities.

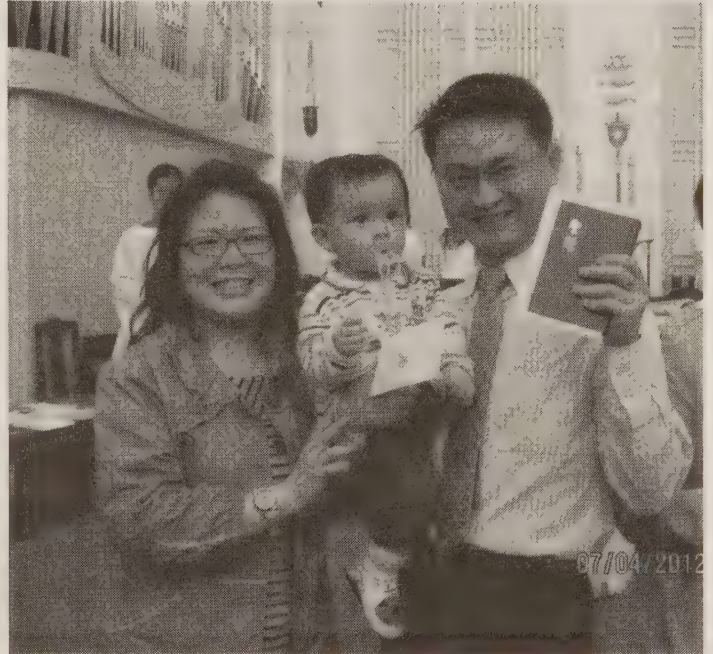
We had a special visit from Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori and her group on Thursday March 1. It was a great honor that she could come to our mission. Our only regret is that our camera broke down, and we have no photos of that wonderful visit and our distinguished visitors!



ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL, TAIPEI

Rev. Samuel Lin Ying-Chiou 林應求牧正

On March 17, St John's Cathedral held A Renewal of Wedding Vows Service for six couples, there were 2 couples celebrating their Golden Wedding, 1 couple celebrating their Silver Wedding, 1 couple celebrating 20 years and 2 couple celebrating their 5 years, and everyone who attended was deeply touched and abundantly blessed. It was a wonderful service especially for the six couples!



On Easter Eve we were delighted to welcome a total of 5 people for baptism, one baby and 4 adults. The baby was Samuel Akira Jhe-Ming Chen, born on May 5, 2011, son of Daniel Yu-Hai Chen and his wife. Daniel was formerly at St. John's University Chaplaincy, and is now in the International Office at St. John's University. Congratulations to all the family! See photos here.

On February 8, St John's Cathedral started a program of studying the Bible weekly for ten weeks, there are more than 18 people attending the course.

On Easter Day we celebrated Easter lunch beside the NTU campus lake with a lunch box picnic. 126 people came along!

On February 18, St John's Cathedral held an Acolyte Training Workshop.



On February 19, St John's Cathedral held a Training Program for those who do the readings in the services. 12 people attended.

St. John's Cathedral was pleased to host the ordination of Rev. Joseph Wu and Rev. Cheng Chen-Chang on April 27.

ST. JAMES' CHURCH, TAICHUNG

Rev. Charles Chen Chin-Ti, Rector Emeritus 陳金地顧問牧師

Rev. Philip Lin Li-Feng 林立峰牧師

St. James' Art Exhibition



During April a very special art exhibition was held at St. James' Church! Shu Hui-Lan is a member of St. James' Church, an artist and interior designer. Some years ago her husband died very tragically, and in his memory she wanted to raise money to build our 12th church in the Diocese of Central Philippines, St. Gregory's Church. Her husband's name was Mr. Yang Song-Hui so the church name in Chinese will be 頌輝堂, which translates as 'St.

Gregory's Church'! There were many who attended the exhibition including visitors from the local community. The exhibition was a complete sell-out, in fact the only picture not sold was one that Hui-Lan's young son saw and loved so much that he requested his mother not to sell it! Together with some other donations, there are now sufficient funds available to construct the church and some classrooms at St. Gregory's.

We pray that the construction will proceed smoothly and we hope that we will have the opportunity to attend the consecration of the new church once it is completed. This will mark the final end of our project that started originally in 1998! We praise and thank the Lord for His blessings to us over the years and we pray that we can continue to be a blessing to others less fortunate than ourselves. The photos were all taken at the exhibition.



CONGRATULATIONS TO REV. DR. CHARLES C. T. CHEN!

On May 3 Bishop David J. H. Lai was delighted to receive the following news from The Rev. Laurel Johnston, Program Officer for Stewardship at The Episcopal Church:

“I’m pleased to inform you that the Board of Directors for The Episcopal Network for Stewardship (TENS) has nominated The Rev. Dr. Charles C. T. Chen to receive the Transformational Stewardship Award at the 77th General Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana.

The Board of Directors recognized Rev. Chen’s faithful leadership in inspiring his community to bless others with the blessings they have received. The building of twelve new churches in a very real way is building the body of Christ with the gifts that have been entrusted.

The Rev. Chen from The Diocese of Taiwan, along with three other award recipients, will be honored at an event on Friday, July 6th from 6:00 – 8:30 pm at the J.W. Marriott Hotel. The Rev. Ed Bacon, Rector of All Saints Pasadena, will serve as the keynote speaker for the evening.”

The guidelines for the original application were as follows:

“TENS is an association of church leaders who understand, practice and proclaim God’s call to generosity. Our ministry is to inspire generosity and faithful discipleship. We strive to point others to the experience of God’s generosity and to raise new stewards to continue this important transforming ministry.

TENS is delighted to invite you or someone from your staff to select one nominee from your diocese--either a congregation, committee, person, and/or a diocesan initiative---that has engaged in transformative stewardship within the past triennium. Transformative stewardship helps others grow in their relationship with Christ through the gifts that have been entrusted to further God’s mission.”

And so the Diocese of Taiwan nominated Rev. Charles C. T. Chen mainly in recognition for Charles’ ministry in the partnership in mission with the Diocese of Central Philippines in building 12 churches in the Philippines.

This is a huge honor for Charles, for St. James’ Church, Taichung and for the Diocese of Taiwan.

Congratulations Charles and thanks be to Almighty God!



Rev. Charles C. T. Chen in the center, with his wife MaryJo on the left, and Bishop Dixie Taclobao, Bishop of the Diocese of Central Philippines on the right

Visit of Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori to St. James' Church and Kindergarten, and Tung-Hai University

We were most honored to be able to welcome Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori, her husband Richard and Mr. Peter Ng to visit St. James' on Wednesday February 29. After a tour of St. James' we took the group to visit Tung-Hai University. Tung-Hai is a Christian University on the far west side of Taichung with beautiful grounds, and a long connection with the Taiwan Episcopal Church and especially St. James' Church. Our retired bishop, Bishop John Chien graduated from Tung-Hai and served on their Board of Trustees for many years. About 40 years ago, the Diocese of Taiwan donated a large sum of money from a special fund to Tung-Hai to build their Business Building. The cornerstone on the building does not mention the Taiwan Episcopal Church by name, and Tung-Hai University has promised to change the wording. More recently we have donated some money to build a Prayer Wall on the campus. We took Pre-



siding Bishop Katharine on a tour of the beautiful grounds and chapel. The photo above shows our group together with the Vice-President and Chaplain of Tung-Hai University. After the visit, we went to a special seafood restaurant for a welcome banquet. The photo below shows the welcome banquet, also with Bishop Lai and Bishop Chien, plus members of the St. James' Vestry.



HOLY WEEK AND EASTER AT ST. JAMES' CHURCH

FROM THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE CONGREGATION

By Warren Sevander

Alleluia. Christ is risen!!

Holy Week and Easter is a very special time here for us at St. James. And, this year was no exception.

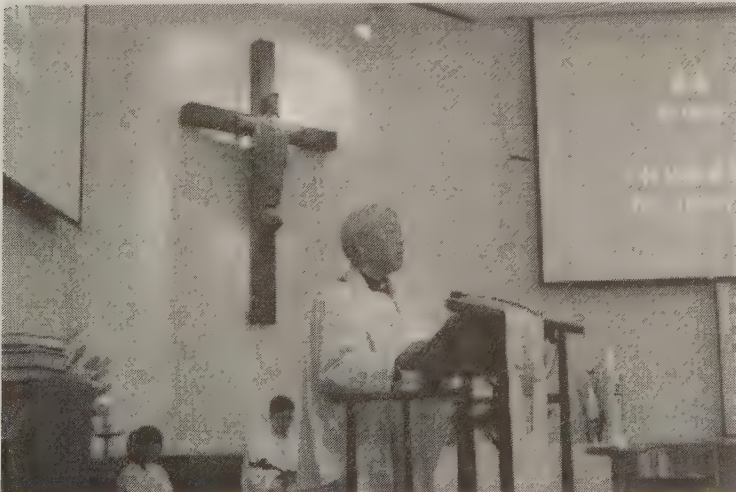
On Palm Sunday (see photo right), there was a combined service for our two congregations. So, parts of the service were presented in English, and other parts were in Mandarin. Catherine Lee had come down to spend that time with us, and she preached the sermon.

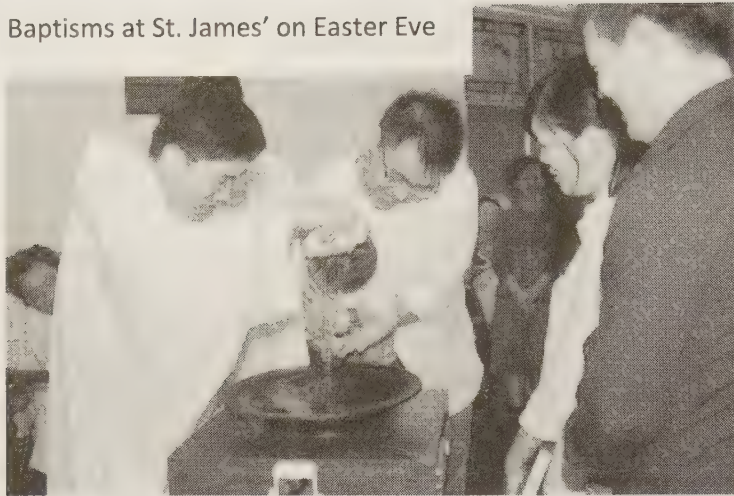
April 1 is a day recognized in western culture countries as 'April Fools Day' (a day for playing practical jokes on one another). Catherine used that coincidence to first illustrate the humor, and then to delve into the Scriptures to bring the Apostle Paul's figurative language, being 'a fool for Christ', to life. A choir of persons from both congregations sang two pieces during the service, 'O Wondrous Love', a reflective song about God's and Christ's great love for us. 'Burden Down', an upbeat spiritual, was sung during Holy Eucharist. Hans Geiger directed those numbers. He faithfully rehearses the



choir and makes it ready for these special services. We at St. James are fortunate that Hans so willingly assists us in this way. You know, we at St. James are blessed in a variety of ways. Catherine has been faithful and helpful in so many ways over the years. Yes, we are truly fortunate and blessed. Not only has the Lord led her to serve in our diocese, but He has enabled her to preach interesting, sensitive, and yet powerful sermons. It was truly exciting to have had her here at St. James to minister to us on Palm Sunday. I just wanted to go on record, not only to our readers here at St. James, but to our broader audience, also, that I am truly grateful to God for His faithful provision. The successful ministry here at St James, speaking for and about the English language congregation in particular, owes a lot to the faithfulness of the persons mentioned above, as well as others who give regularly of their time and talents.

On Saturday night, April 7, the combined congregations worshipped together during





lesson of love...a lesson of devotion...and a lesson of great personal sacrifice.

On Easter Sunday, the English language congregation held its service of celebration and resurrection, singing as many hymns of joy announcing the resurrection as we could fit into the service. A small choir sang an anthem, 'Good Christians All Rejoice and Sing.' It was so exciting to be part of that it. I think a worshipful, exciting time was had by all of us. 1/3 of those at-

tending were visitors, most from either out of town or from out of the country. A marvelous day for celebrating resurrection and new life.

the Easter Vigil. The procession following the Paschal Candle into the darkened church was awe inspiring...waiting for that special moment during the service when the darkened sanctuary was beautifully illuminated by every light in the church. The Light of the World has risen. Rev. Jason Ke preached the sermon that night (see photo on page 31), in both English and Mandarin. I was particularly moved by one thing he emphasized, that being the great cost and value of the spices and ointments that were brought by the women who went to prepare Jesus' body after the crucifixion. I had never thought about it from the perspective that Jason spoke of, and it was a valuable lesson learned...a

It has been quite some time since I was moved as deeply during Holy Week as I was during the services this year. May the Lord continue to bless each one as he or she follows Him.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!!

Wedding Bells in Australia! By Rev. Charles C. T. Chen

A former member of both Good Shepherd Church and St. James' Church, Dr. Fung's daughter, Rita married Anthony at St. George Church, Sydney. Rita is a graduate of St. James' Kindergarten and is now a licensed accountant, working at the TV Corporation in Sydney. Dr. Fung and his family immigrated to Australia about 10-15 years ago, he currently operates a well-known clinic at Riverwood, Sydney. They return to visit Taiwan from time to time. It was so nice that my wife and I happened to have an opportunity to attend Rita's matrimony as well as her wedding banquet in Sydney (see photo right). I was so pleased that I was invited by the bride to give a short speech of congratulations in English and the grace in Chinese before the banquet.



THE CHURCH OF THE LEADING STAR

Mr. Joseph Ho Ray-En 何睿恩傳道

I am glad to share the news from The Church of Leading Star. I was dispatched by Bishop Lai to serve here, along with my wife, starting January 10, 2012.

This church opened in 1986. At the time, it was set up as a kindergarten, so from the start a mission strategy was used to open up the church. From then until now, we have worked hard with the children in the community through the kindergarten education ministry.

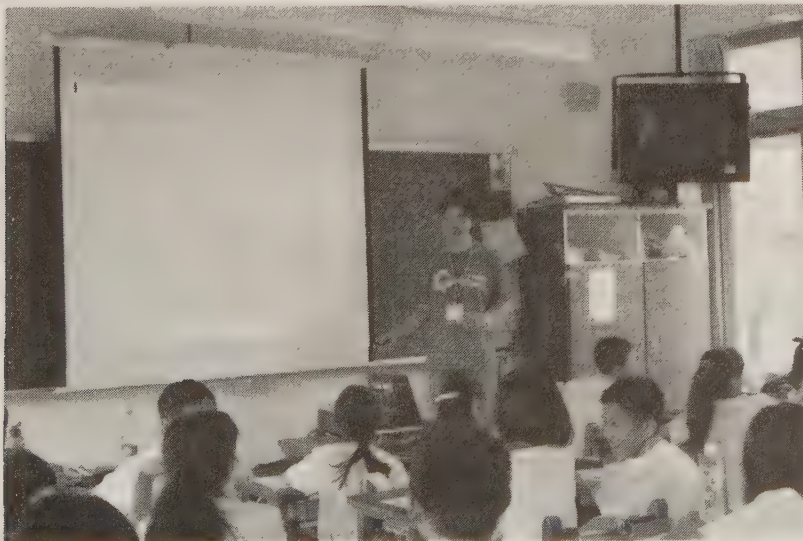


working on this problem. Please pray for us.

A few months ago local government administrative changes amalgamated Taichung County and Taichung City into one local authority. The Church of the Leading Star is located in Taiping, which is now part of Taichung City. This has caused some challenges for us, mainly because different government units have different ways to take care of their residents. The Church of the Leading Star is actually located in a building consisting of 5 houses knocked into one. Already we are facing a bill of NT\$60,000 in order to revise our building license. Under the old system, we had no problems, but the new government system means that our building license needs to be revised to include kindergarten as well as living accommodation. Now we are

St. James' Church has been involved in the 'Champions' Education classes for several years, and in the last 2 years, they have been teaching these classes in schools in the Taiping area. As a result we already have good relationships with the local community. I have joined this program and now teach four classes in three different schools (see photos). In May, we will celebrate Mother's Day at May 11 in the evening and May 12 in the morning with special activities at our church.

As well as Champions Education, we also have religious education for the kindergarten students. Kindergarten in a wonderful way to share the good news and to develop good relationships with the children and their parents. The parents trust people who love their children.



May God bless this place, and make this church become like the leading star, leading people to know Jesus Christ, our Lord.

ST. PETER'S CHURCH, CHIA-YI

Rev. Simon Tsou Tsai-Shin 鄒才新牧師



On February 5, Bishop Lai came to St. Peter's Church, for the institution of Rev. Simon T. S. Tsou as the new vicar of St. Peter's (see photo above). Bishop Lai asked all the church members to support and uphold the new vicar, to work together and love each other.

On February 12, after lunch we had an interesting activity, "Eastern vs. Western". We invited Mrs. Huang who taught us how to make dumplings and then our American teacher Lori taught us how to make American cookies, it was a lot of fun!

From March 11 to April 15, we had a study group, reading Father Anselm Grün's 'Sieben Schritte ins Leben' ('Seven Steps to Living'), which helped us to think about our relationship with God. We had a



wonderful time in sharing and reflection, it has given us more strength and courage in our faith.

In Holy Week, we had Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday service, Good Friday service and The Great Vigil of Easter service.

On Palm Sunday we had a procession around the churchyard and garden (see photo below), helping us to feel what it must have been like when Jesus came into Jerusalem, all the people were very welcoming and celebrating, but a few days later, they



went on to crucify him. It makes us think why? How could they do that? On Maundy Thursday we didn't eat the Passover meal, but we washed one another's feet (see photo left). We did something just like the Lord did. It helped us to contemplate how to learn from Jesus's example and to serve the sick, the hungry, the oppressed.

We are so happy to share our life for you, may God bless us. Thank you!

GRACE CHURCH, TAINAN

Rev. Sam Cheng Ching-San 鄭慶三牧師

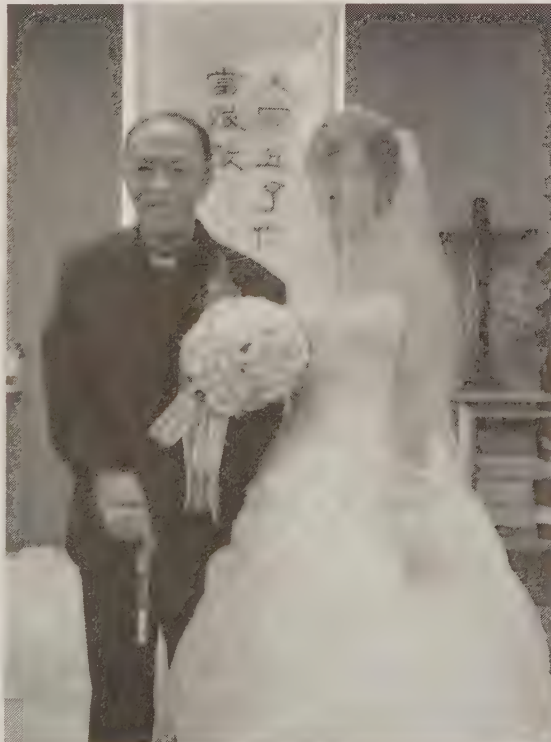
Our Holy Week activities at Grace Church included Maundy Thursday at 7:20pm when we had the Lord's Supper. 14 people came along and our vicar, Rev. Sam Cheng washed the feet of the church members. On Good Friday the church was open for people to come and pray. On Easter Eve at 7:20pm 16 people attended the Easter Vigil. On Easter Day, Rev. Charles C. T. Chen and his wife MaryJo came to Grace Church to celebrate with us and to preach. They had just come home from their visit to Australia and we were all so moved by their willingness to come and share with us so soon after their return.

Our church youth group has 8 members, they meet every Saturday evening. First we all have a meal together from 6:30-7:00pm, then from 7:00-8:00pm we have guitar class, then 8:10-9:00pm we have a devotional time and Bible sharing. The last Saturday of every month, the chair of our Bishop's Committee, Mr. Lin leads the group with some life education, praise and worship. This group, together with the Sunday School, have already started to help on Sunday morning in the worship, with acolyte duties. These young



people also love basketball, so we have bought basketball stands and nets. Now each time we finish our fellowship or after church on Sunday, the young people spend much time playing basketball (see photo left).

We warmly congratulate Rev. Samuel Liao and his family! His daughter was married on April 28 in Grace Church, Tainan (see photo below). At the beginning of January, retired priest Rev. Samuel Liao broke his spine in an accident and was faced with 7 long months of rehabilitation. Spurred on by the thought of his daughter's approaching marriage, he really struggled to get better and to try to be able to walk again. His dream was to be able to walk his daughter down the



aisle! Until the actual wedding, nobody really knew whether this was going to actually happen or not, would he walk or would she push him in a wheelchair or what?! On the day itself, down the aisle walked Rev. Samuel Liao with his daughter on his arm! Many people were very moved by this wonderful sight and there were lots of tears of joy that day! Congratulations Rev. Samuel Liao on your recovery and long may it continue!

ST. ANDREW'S KINDERGARTEN, JIE-DING

Rev. Keith Lee Jen-Cheng 李鎮丞牧師

Our weekend children's activities of this new semester started from February 18, there are 16 children participating each week.

The kindergarten Bible class started from February 22, the class runs once a week, we sing songs, pray, and have Bible stories; the children all like the class. Our kindergarten is located in a very superstitious area of the countryside, but once the children come to study, they all learn to recite the Lord's Prayer and Psalm 23 (see photos).



The half-day-care elementary school students went out to Lu-jhu to have a relaxation activity after their exams. The Rev. Lee led the program.

To care for the parents or families of our kindergarten children is one of the important ministries of St. Andrew's Mission. The mother of one of our kindergarten children, Mrs. Ya-fung Chen had been seeking medical treatment for a long time due to illness, but finally the doctor diagnosed that she was suffering from late stage cancer, and her situation steadily worsened. We went to see her and to pray for her, to encourage her to light up the hope of living when she was in hospital. Of course, we also shared the good news from God with her, to let her realize that Jesus is our true light and hope, and lead her to pray with us. The last time that she could talk to us with her feeble voice, she said she was willing to believe and accept Jesus Christ to be her Saviour and Lord of her life. Unfortunately, she could not hold on until the baptism and passed away before it, her time at

the end went so quickly. Even though she died without baptism, we believe that God knows her faith, we believe Mrs. Chen had heavenly peace and comfort in her heart. May God receive her soul, and comfort and guard her family and children.

The caring work will never stop, God loves the people here, and wishes people to know His love. The seed sowing work is not a visible result, but indeed an important and basic work to do, and to follow.



ST. MARK'S CHURCH, PING-TUNG

Rev. Keith Lee Jen-Cheng 李鎮丞牧師

On January 23 a Lunar New Year's Thanksgiving Service was held.

As reported in the last Friendship Magazine, the Rt. Rev. Roger Chung, retired bishop of Antsiranana, Madagascar came back to Taiwan together with his Taiwanese wife Alice, and his younger son, Alex. They attended our Sunday services on January 8 and 29 and the bishop also gave a speech to us. We were all happy that we could know this family (see top photo).



Four of our church sisters attended the "church music session" which was led by Mrs. Amy Chee at St. James' Church on 18 February.



Five of our church sisters attended the life-development program which was held by the Southern Deanery at St. Paul's Church on 27-28 February.



Four of our church sisters are studying the Anglican Liturgics course which is run by Trinity Hall of the

diocese. They all like the program and are interested in it.

The children's weekend activities for this semester started on 17 March. There are 17 children participating in this event. The photos here show our children's weekend activities.

The family fellowship of March was held by Ms. Tu, one of our church members who is good at cooking. She prepared nice and delicious food on March 24 for the fellowship dinner. After dinner we watched a film called "Conversation with God".

On Saturday evening March 31, the day preceding Palm Sunday, we used palm branches to decorate the chapel as a sign of Jesus' victory and the remembrance of his entry to Jerusalem, and a reminder of the beginning of the Holy Week, and we also made lots of Palm crosses.

We celebrated all special services every night from Maundy Thursday to Easter Vigil.

ALL SAINTS CHURCH, KANG-SHAN

Rev. Leo Tzeng Wen-Bin 曾文斌牧師

We had Holy Eucharist for Thanksgiving Day (Chinese New Year) and Ancestor Memorial Liturgy on January 23. After the Sunday Service, we had Imposition of Ashes on February 26. During the Service of the Great Vigil of Easter, we had 3 children of the Sunday School receive baptism (see photo).

Starting on the second Sunday of March, once a month, Morning Prayer is used in place of the Word of God for the Holy Eucharist.

We have a special church Bible Reading Activity,

one chapter each day, March to November of this year. Now we are reading the Book of Isaiah.



ST. TIMOTHY'S CHURCH, KAOHSIUNG

Rev. Justin Lin Jun-Ming 林俊明牧師

St. Timothy's Church has had a busy Lent, Holy Week and Easter with many small groups meeting, services and then on Easter Day after the service, we had an wonderful outing to the Art Museum.

We have also been busy at our Outreach Center in Jia-Shian with weekend camps, then every Wednesday afternoon and Friday afternoon we hold extra classes to help the local children with their homework. We also continue with the junior high school and elementary school children life education classes.

We have plenty of small groups meeting throughout the week, plus outreach activities for children and those in the local community.

The photo below shows one of our adult activities, and the page 41 photo shows our happy youth group on an outing!





ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, KAOHSIUNG.

Rev. Philip Ho Jeng-Long 何政隆牧師

Happy Easter Day at St. Paul's Church!

On this happy Easter Day, April 8, we had 73 people in our congregation to worship our Lord for the resurrection of our Almighty Jesus Christ. We were very happy to have 14 teachers of the St. Paul's Kindergarten to join in the service, who offered a beautiful hymn to praise His resurrection. After getting an Easter egg which was made by church sister Sofia Chao, all of the congregation lined up in single file on the front stairs to take a picture of this nice memory.

Then we went to the "Sunset Beach Resort of National Sun Yat-Sen University" to have a lunch party. All of the congregation ate, chatted, laughed, and talked together while enjoying the nice meal at the beautiful sunny beach. The young people were so happy to have their funny beach volleyball.



St. Paul's Church Confirmation Testimony 'Healing, Blessing, Trust and Provision'

Ms. Jeng, Shiou-Mei 鄭秀美 (translated by Amy Wang)

At the very beginning of a new year, I feel very grateful and blessed to have received confirmation together with Mr. Su Ray Chung (蘇瑞昌) and Ms. Lin Jia-Ying (林佳茵).

Frankly speaking, I am a very rebellious person. I used to criticize the Episcopal Church which my husband identified with. I used to think that the complicated rituals and rules were far too serious and boring. Therefore I refused to attend the Episcopal Church services with my husband. I felt more identified with a different church. However due to my depression after giving birth to my baby, I was sinking into a "spiritually dark valley", even though I continued to be a church-goer. I felt that I was unable to reach God and His love.



Through pastoral counseling and Home Group meetings at a church called "Jia Jing Church" (嘉浸教會), I was led out of this dark valley of depression! God opened my spiritual eyes, and revealed the beauty of the child-like faith that Mr. Su, Shu-Mei (淑美) and Jia-Ying expressed for God. So I began to understand that simple trust can give me a life full of blessings. As well as healing my depression, God has also awakened my yearnings for Him again!

Furthermore, I have learned that the rituals in the

Episcopal Church are very meaningful. They function to esteem our important developmental milestones in life, and additionally they are used to pass down spiritual blessings to God's people; such as Baby Dedication, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist. In the Bible, we learn that God highly values the act of His people building an altar and worshipping Him. Gradually, I learned of the importance of the rites, about their outer formality and the deep meaning in terms of God passing down the spiritual blessings through these solemn rituals. They are endowed with profound meanings! I think those rituals are special characteristics of the Episcopal Church. My attitude has changed and I cherish them as a precious spiritual heritage.

I believe this Confirmation is very helpful to me. I have been yearning for a spiritual home but in the past, I did not identify with the Episcopal Church, thus I never committed myself to it.

Without true commitment, I had been feeling as if I were 'spiritually homeless' and feeling empty inside. Thank God that He has forgiven me by accepting my repentance, and He has been healing me. And I have determined I want to grow in this spiritual home that He has selected for me!

This year is a new cycle of the Millennium. Prayerfully, I hope we will forget what is left behind; forget any sorrow or pain. Enjoy God's love and bear fruit in spreading His Gospel!

St. Paul's Church Confirmation Testimony: "The Lost Sheep has been found"

Mr. Su, Ray Chung 蘇瑞昌 (translated by Amy Wang)

I feel honored that I could receive this Confirmation at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. I would like to share my inner process of Truth-Seeking.

Back in my high school days, I had started searching for the meaning and purpose of life: "Who am I? Where am I coming from? What is the purpose of this life?" Like other people, I have gone through major milestones such as graduation from school, starting my first job and getting married. Owing to my Buddhist family background, I never had exposure to church life until I began to experience some severe problems in my life. In 2005, the construction company which I had worked for was shut down so, unfortunately, I was forced to lose my job. In three years, I had to deal with job-loss, failure in investment, and family issues. They really struck me badly, then I found myself lost in despair and negative thoughts.

On September 10, 2008, I had a dream of a cross bathed in a glorious shining light and because the bright light was so strong, it startled me awake. This miraculous dream drove me to seek God more fervently. After some church visits, I was baptized as a Mormon. But after this baptism, I did not find peace with God and I was unable to communicate with God until I went to Pingtung visiting my friend, Ms. Tsai who told me about the Episcopal Church.

Once again, I encountered failure in investment, but I was determined to fight back in my life. I started

to look for a church in my area again, but just could not feel a sense of belongingness. In September 2011, I re-visited my friend, Tsai again, and she mentioned St. Mark's Church, Pingtung. I carefully surfed the internet and found information about the Episcopal Church in Kaohsiung. Actually that day I started off going to another church in Kaohsiung, but it was a rainy day, and I changed my mind, instead I went to St. Paul's Episcopal Church! For two months, I was sincerely seeking for His will, praying "Please direct me to a spiritual home that you choose for me. Please help me to serve you there."



Thank God! This "lost sheep" was found by Him and returned home! I am not on my own anymore. My lonesome spirit has found its shelter in the Lord.

I was bountifully blessed by Rev. Philip Ho and his wife who are a pious couple, moreover, St. Paul's Episcopal Church to me is like a big family now. Rev. Philip Ho's hometown is Dong-Gang (東港), actually his home is located across the street from my cousin's home! Wonderfully, God has been leading me through my friend, Tsai, and the events that happened. It has totally changed my life and it feels as if this puzzle of my life is being put together piece by piece!

"Help me O Lord, to be your humble servant. Teach me to share the load of ministering to your people." In prayer, intercession, and thanksgiving, I believe that God already dwells in my heart!

Ms. Chen Feng-Mei was a teacher at St. James' Kindergarten, Taichung when she became a Christian. Through her witness and with the support of Christian friends and Good Shepherd Church, her mother became a Christian just before she died in February. Feng-Mei's husband graduated from Tainan Theological College in the summer of 2011, and they now live in Penghu where they serve in the Presbyterian Church. She shares her own and her mother's testimony here. Translated by Amy Wang.

My mother, Tsai A-Mei (蔡阿妹) was born in Taitung, Eastern Taiwan on September 2, 1952. She belonged to the Bei-nan (卑南族) tribe of indigenous people, known for their passionate, candid and open personalities. She was very much a typical Bei-nan indigenous mother!

Although my mother was not the first-born in her family, she was the oldest daughter. Since this special tribe still practices the traditional matriarchal social system, she played an important role in her family. She was given a great burden of responsibility for the entire family. Maybe that is why we children think of our mother as being as strong as a large tree. She spent her childhood taking care of her younger brothers and sisters instead of attending school, and never did learn to read or write. Often she was sent to help out at the homes of others in order to make some money.

When she was 14 years old, my mother was married off for the price of NT\$ 6,000, (and part of the deal was that she also took along her younger brother and sister!) This practice was not unusual at the time, but for her it was a very traumatic experience. On her first night she was so scared that she ran away and spent the first few nights sleeping in a

ditch. Her husband was violent and beat her frequently. By the age of 20, she already had 3 children, 2 boys and me. Finally we were loaded onto a truck and sent back to my grandparents' home. I was only 6 months old at the time and I remain ever grateful to my mother for choosing to take care of me, whereas my brothers, being boys and older, both remained with their father and grandparents (the photo below shows my mother holding me at 6 months old).

When I was 11 years old, my mother, stepfather and all the extended family including me, moved north to 中壢 Chung-Li, in Taoyuan County, where we

settled. There was plenty of work there, unlike in Taitung. Then after my mother's second divorce I lived with my stepfather, and he was a wonderful father to me. My mother took care of my stepsister, who was 10 years younger than me, and later a much younger stepbrother. When my 2 older brothers grew up, they also moved to Chung-Li. Sadly my second older brother died tragically at the age of 25 when he was hit by a truck. My oldest brother died of hepatitis aged 36, leaving a wife and 3 young children. In our society, we have a saying that one of the saddest things for anyone is when the 'white-haired' (ie older) generation has to endure



the pain of witnessing the death of a 'black-haired' (ie younger) generation. My mother faced these tragedies with her usual courage and fortitude, and continued to work hard. Her character still remained the same, outspoken but tender-hearted.

It is by God's grace that He led me to become a teacher at St. James' Kindergarten, Taichung. I really enjoyed the devotional times that we had at the school. Through the teaching of Rev. Charles C. T. Chen and the materials we used for our spiritual learning, I began to get to know God. Rev. Charles Chen helped us spiritually, and he also encouraged us to upgrade our professional level, so I was given the great opportunity to upgrade my education as a teacher and to actually graduate with a degree from Taichung Teachers' College! He also increased our benefits as teachers at St. James and every three years we were taken on a trip overseas. In the 12 years that I was at St. James, he took us to many European countries. Travelling with my fellow workers really offered me a broadened view of this global village!

I rejoice that I was baptized into God's family in 1997. At the time I sincerely felt that I had been rescued by God from a deep dark pit. Deep down inside, I felt that I came from a family full of curses: death, debt and disasters! How could life be so unfair? And yet in my search for true peace, I had already been chosen by God and brought into the family of God's people at St. James' Kindergarten and the St. James' Church community. This was the beginning of my discovery of true peace. After I accepted the Lord as my personal Savior, there was an eagerness burning within me for my family's conversion. From then on, I always kept them in my prayers. Somehow, it felt not so easy to share the gospel with them, so out of my disappointment sometimes I would strongly challenge God: "When on earth will my family members open the door for



you?" At such a moment, Rev. Charles Chen's encouragement would remind me of the scriptures: "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your family." Acts 16: 31. I also received the words from Hebrews 11:1 "To have faith is to be sure of the things we hope for, to be certain of the things we cannot see" and "For this reason I tell you: When you pray and ask for something, believe that you have received it, and you will be given whatever you ask for". Mark 11: 24.

In July 2005, Catherine Lee, our CMS-UK mission partner, met my mother for the first time when we stayed for a few days at Chung-Li due to a typhoon delaying our planned trip to Tanzania. I was only able to go on that trip to Tanzania because I had just left my job at St. James' in order to join my husband in Tainan where he was studying at Tainan Theological College. Despite being married for 5 years and trying to have a child, we had had no success, but on that trip I was so moved by the prayers of the people of Africa and the Holy Spirit; thanks be to God my daughter was born only 10 months after I returned home!

Not knowing a word of English, my mother was always proud of having a foreign friend, and since

then, Catherine has been praying for my mother and made many visits to my family in Chung-Li. A year ago, the Rev. Lily Chang and Good Shepherd Church in Taipei started a Mission Outreach Center in Chung-Li. During last year's summer camp with the Vancouver Youth Team in Chung-Li, Catherine, Rev. Lily Chang and Rev. Roberta Fraser from Vancouver visited my mother at her Betel Nut Shop one evening. They listened as my mother, with tears in her eyes, shared her life story with them. At the end of the visit, my mother gathered the whole family for a prayer of blessing from Rev. Lily Chang.

God's will is indeed higher than our will! No one would have predicted that such a strong person as my mother would come to her last milestone so soon. On the 5th day of this past Chinese New Year 2012, my mother experienced a sudden severe headache, due to excessively high blood pressure, which led to a brain hemorrhage.

In a phone conversation with her just before the Chinese New Year and just before her illness, my mother had suddenly told me that she believed in Jesus as her Lord and Savior! This was the first evidence that she longed to be a Christian. After the surgery for the brain hemorrhage, when she woke up, the first thing I did was to ask her: "Do you remember that you told me that you want to become a Christian?" This time my mother nodded her head very clearly in front of all the family members.

A few days later, my mother had to have a second

surgery, but from that she never regained consciousness. Catherine suggested I invite Rev. Lily Chang to come to the hospital to pray over her in the ICU ward. During our phone conversation, I shared with Pastor Lily about my mother and she suggested that the time was right for her baptism. I was so surprised, I had never imagined that this would be a possibility!

However the hospital then warned me that my mother's time was getting short, and so my mother was baptized by Rev. Lily Chang early in the morning on Sunday February 5. That evening, she received the prayers and ministry for those at the Time of Death, and she died early the next morning, February 6. Rev. Lily Chang kindly led our family

through all the funeral rites, and I thank God that my mother is now at peace, resting from all her hard work in this life, entering the eternal, beautiful home which Jesus has prepared for her. She was truly blessed.



My family are not

Christians so I am glad that they were with me in the hospital to see my mother nod her head and agree to become a Christian. But when neighbors and friends heard of my mother's death, they were totally taken aback to hear that my mother was having a Christian funeral! Praise God that all the family agreed to a Christian funeral (see photo above) and to cooperate with me in organizing it.

Witnessing her smiling face at the moment of death, I beheld my mother's beautiful response to eternal life. Handling the procedures as we prepared to leave the hospital after her death, Pastor Lily began

to recall what my mother had told her that day last summer when she visited her at her Betel Nut Shop: "I feel I am just a sinner, and I have sinned many times against God! I have to carry the duty of practicing the Memorial Rites for our late ancestors as a family tradition. Perhaps I will only be able to come to the Lord right at the very end of my life..."

Thanks be to the living God! He had prepared the way for my mother so well. Though she spent most of her time suffering in this life, yet God loved her so dearly that towards the end of this life, she was well-cared of and taken to a new beginning with an eternal life!

Another most wonderful part of this is that my mother and I were both baptized in the Anglican /

Episcopal Church. It is truly grace surpassing my understanding!

Finally, I would like to express how grateful I am for the many 'angels' who were sent by God to pray for our family. Right after my mother's death, my family was just overwhelmed by God's abundant grace and love through caring brothers and sisters in Christ. All your love and care has been dwelling in our hearts. Now, my 78-year-old stepfather has promised that one day he wants to become a Christian! Hallelujah!

If this were not from God, I could not experience so much grace. This journey has deepened my faith. I trust Him as the faithful one. He will always fulfill His promises for you and for me! Amen.



Funeral Day: the whole extended family gathered for the final farewell to their mother, they are holding her photo up at the back.

臺灣聖公會通訊

蕭淑芳



TAIWAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH

7 Lane 105, Hang-chow South Road, Section 1, Taipei 100, Taiwan, Republic of China.

發行人：賴榮信

發行者：財團法人臺灣聖公會

會址：台北市杭州南路一段105巷7號

電話：886-2-2341-1265

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E-mail: skhtpe@ms12.hinet.net

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Phone: 886-2-2341-1265

Fax: 886-2-2396-2014

skhtpe@ms12.hinet.net

skh.tpe@msa.hinet.net



The Episcopal

Diocese of Taiwan

The Rt. Rev. David

J. H. Lai,

Bishop of Taiwan

Flora Lamson Hewlett Library
Graduate Theological Union
2400 Ridge Road
Berkeley, CA 94709
U.S.A.